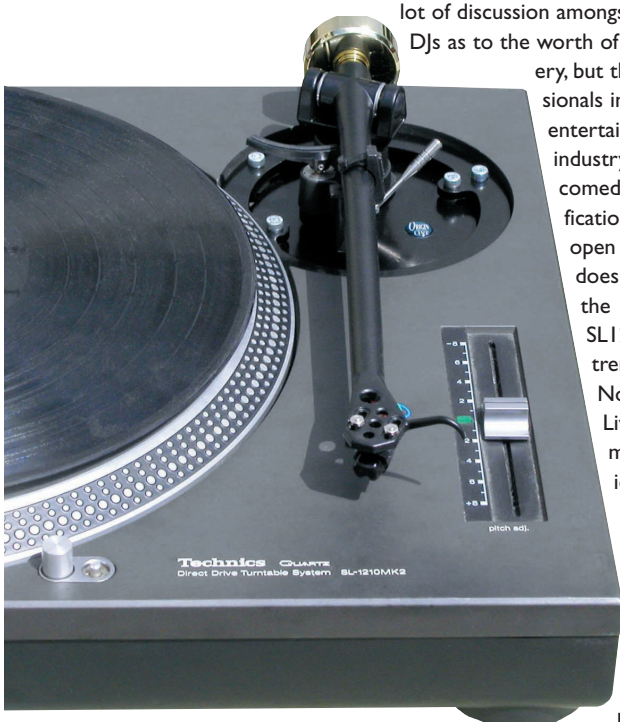


Board, Rigid

Back in July 2002, Stewart Wennen outlined his idea for a superior quality armboard for the world's most popular turntable, Technics' ubiquitous SL1200. Since then, Origin Live has taken the idea and developed it – so who better than SW himself to assess it...?



A couple of years ago, I discussed the possibility of replacing the very poor standard Technics pick up arm with an Origin Live RB250. This met with a lot of discussion amongst bedroom

DJs as to the worth of this butchery, but the professionals in the entertainment industry welcomed this modification with open arms, as it does improve the SL1200/1210 tremendously. Now, Origin Live has made the idea a commercial reality. The princely sum of £39 (inc. P&P) buys you one pick up

arm mounting plate, fixing screws and an instruction sheet.

The first step is to remove the old pick up arm, which is covered in the original article in much more detail than in the OL data sheet. Remember that you can possibly sell the redundant SL1200 pick up arm (God knows why anyone would want one, but try it!), so be gentle with it. One point that is not covered on the data sheet is that the Pocan slab that sits directly under the motor board has to be removed before the arm retaining screws can be accessed. Don't throw these away but, when the SL1200 arm has been removed, loosely screw them into the original armbase.

Do not forget that the earth lead from the pitch control will have to be used to earth the new pick up arm! As modifications go this is an

extremely good one. I modified two SL1200s and I found that it took approximately 45 minutes to mount the new pick up arms into the turntables. There is no need to align the arm, as the plate has been laser cut especially for RB250. There is

” This modification makes a good turntable into a stunning transcription unit

also a spacer ring included with the kit to be used with cartridges like the Stanton 890 series. The only difficult part of mounting the replacement arm is setting the vertical tracking angle. Do not make the arm pillar higher than the headshell. Follow the instructions as they are written. This is very important. When the arm is mounted and earthed and the turntable is completely re-assembled, a break is necessary and after this, the listening can be started.

The first thing that struck me was the difference in the stereo imaging. The new pick up arm and plate mod. had an extra four feet of width within the image, and the height was much taller and the image depth extremely deep! I compared the modified SL1200 to a completely standard turntable and the differences were staggering. All frequencies seemed smoother, and the music was projected much more easily. One knows when something is correct and this arm and plate modification makes a good turntable into a stunning transcription unit.

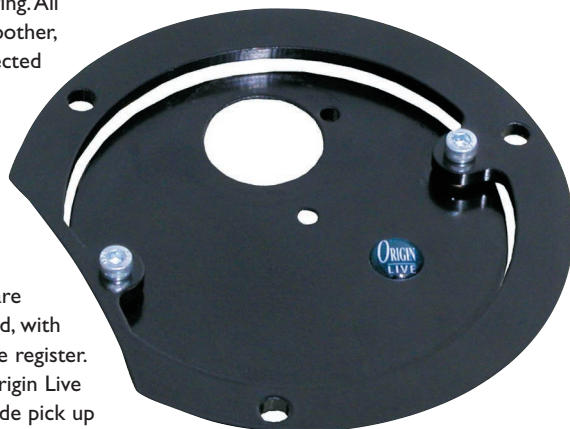
Bass and midrange are extremely well presented, with an almost ethereal treble register. This again proves the Origin Live RB250 is a very well made pick up

arm. And it is extremely easy to 'mix' with, as the original Technics arm tends to jump out of the groove when being back-cued, and the resulting cue point is missed. As an arm for 'scratch mix' DJs, its performance is almost exemplary. OL

RB250s let cartridges track much more securely, especially when 'scratching' and it's also easier to visually cue with as the headshell is much smaller than the Technics

variation.

So if you're in the market for any new DJ equipment, I can recommend this new Origin Live armboard without any reservation at all. It's a neat way to fit an RB250 arm, which will dramatically improve your performance as a DJ or your listening pleasure as a music fan. A group of DJs in this country use OL RB250 modified Technics SL 1210s with glee - the mod. has paid for itself many times over and enables the music to be much more easily delivered to the dancefloor. Indeed, there's a competition between DJs and club owners in New York to build the best sound system in a nightclub. A few of these nightclubs use Origin Live equipped Technics SL1210s as their turntables. I think that this is enough recommendation in itself.



VERDICT

A brilliant tweak for Technics SL1200 series turntables - essential equipment for DJs and music lovers alike.

**ORIGIN LIVE TECHNICS
ARMBOARD MODIFICATION
KIT**

£39

Origin Live

www.originlive.com